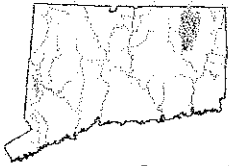


Naubesatuck Watershed Council

Protecting the Natchaug, Mount Hope, and Fenton Rivers in Northeastern Connecticut



State of Connecticut
Commerce Committee

February 24, 2011

RE: TESTIMONY: Bill 1020

Quentin Kessel, President
David Morse, Vice President
Dov Kugelmass, Treasurer
Catherine Carlson
Bruce Gregoire
Rose Courmoyer
Jean de Smet

Denise Burchsted,
Executive Director

Dear Commerce Committee Members:

I write on behalf of the Naubesatuck Watershed Council (NWC) to express our deep concern with the backward progress embodied in proposed bill 1020. This bill will essentially render the proposed streamflow regulations null and void. This is in disregard to the clear desire of the people of the state of Connecticut to protect our rivers, both for us as well as for future generations. Maintaining flow in a river is an obviously necessary first step toward protecting our rivers. Bill 1020 is also raised in apparent disregard to the years of hard work by all stakeholders in crafting these regulations in accordance with existing law.

Although short-term profits can be made at the expense of our rivers, those profits will not provide us with recreational opportunities, with opportunities for refuge from our busy schedules, with the clean water we all require, or with any real quality of life. Additionally, those profits can not be sustainable and come at the expense of future generations. Our children deserve, at a minimum, the opportunity to craft a life that is livable. That starts with fundamental protection of our water.

I urge you to vote against this bill.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Denise Burchsted".

Denise Burchsted